Proper Talent Presents

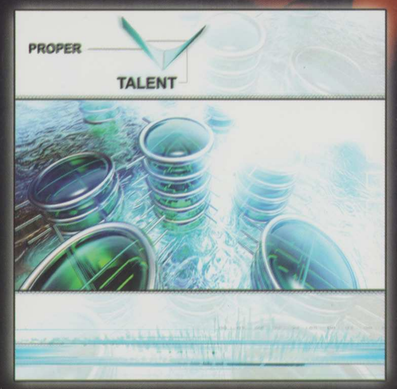
PROPER TALENT

Coming Soon

Rage
a. Crackdown
aa. Crackdown (Tango Remix)

Out Now

DJ Rap
a. Hardstep (Danny C Remix)
aa. Come Forth (Danny C Remix)



Re-Released Proper Talent Classics

Volume 1	Volume 2	Volume 3	Volume 4	Volume 5	Volume 6
DJ Rap	DJ Rap	DJ Rap	DJ Rap	DJ Rap	DJ Rap
a. Spiritual Aura	a. Digable Bass	a. Get Under	a. Lick Shot	a. Playing With Paranoia	a. The Drum
aa. Divine Rythmn	aa. Intelligent Woman	aa. Hard Step	aa. Ruffest Gun Ark	aa. Rumble	aa. Reprazenting

Proper Talent wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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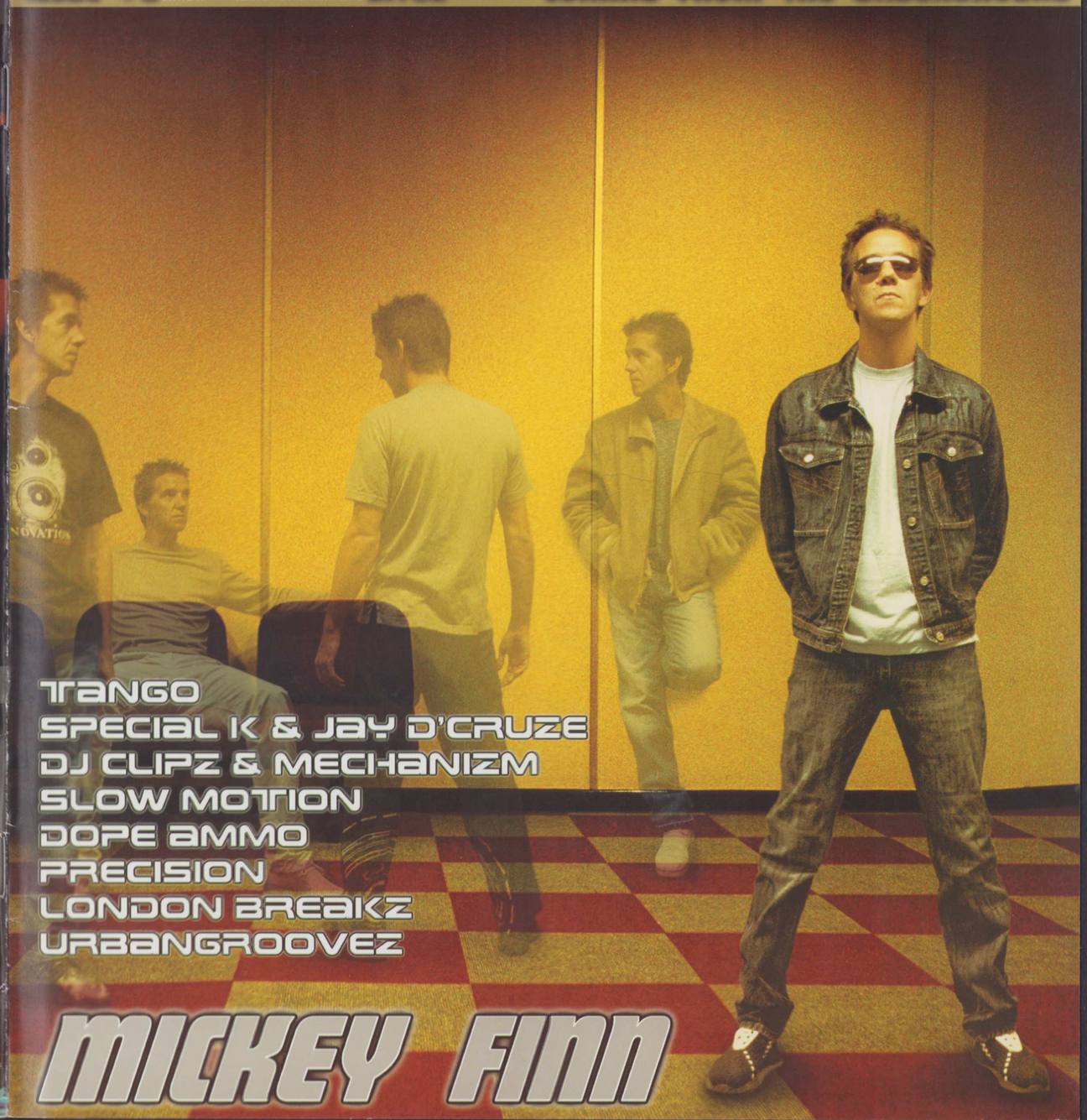

TANGO
SPECIAL K & JAY D'CRUZE
DJ CLIPZ & MECHANIZM
SLOW MOTION
DOPE AMMO
PRECISION
LONDON BREAKZ
URBANGROOVEZ

MICKEY FINN

MICKEY FINN
TANGO
SPECIAL K & JAY D'CRUZE
DJ CLIPZ & MECHANIZM
SLOW MOTION
DOPE AMMO
PRECISION BREAKBEAT RESEARCH
LONDON BREAKZ
INSPIRIT MUSIC
PHIL'S RAMBLINGS

word from the ed>

I remember someone once telling me that as you get older life tends to go faster. I mean like it only seems like yesterday that we were sobering up and returning to normality from New Year festivities. And now once again we're being blinded by the Christmas spirit...

Mickey Finn's on our cover this issue, coinciding with his DMC compilation 'The Takeover Bid 2'. You can find him also talking about his and L Double's forthcoming album plus more besides. Also find information on the come back of Tango & Ratty, Special K & D'Cruze, the 'Uprising' LP from Dope Ammo, DJ Clipz & Mechanizm, Slow Motion, Hustlin' Beats and Precision.

That's the drum and bass content wrapped. If you're into breakbeat you would be best advised to thumb to the article on Breakneck backed London Breakz. Guidance Records and Inspirit Music also come under the spotlight, so house lovers head for that.

We've got some fantastic competitions courtesy of Movement and Dope Ammo Records. There's two pairs of tickets up for grabs for two lucky winners to the country's biggest NYE jam held by Movement and World Dance in conjunction with Ministry. Dope Ammo are kindly giving up some copies of their 'Uprising LP', the question is simple, just read the feature first...

Finally, just a little plug for our website once again. We're uploading event galleries every single week, as well as artist charts, replay mixes and much more... check it. It's www.lexiconmag.co.uk for the Lexicon Live experience...

Enjoy

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HERE WE COUNT DOWN THE NU URBAN RELEASES FOR CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AND NEWS ON ALL RECORD LABELS LOG-ON TO WWW.LEXICONMAG.CO.UK

BASEMENT

It received Knowledge's record of the month approval. It's Tango & Ratty with a reprise of 'Train Track' b/w 'Tonic'. It also signals the re-awakening of Basement Records after their series of seminal represses. Relative new comer and hotly tipped talent Rage and then Tungsten & Morph enter the fray soon after.

BLACK SUN EMPIRE

Hot off the heels of their devastating debut is Black Sun Empire with their next release. Next cut is 'The Sun' - another grueling, murky tear out tune in the key of tech-step. 'Epilogue' on the flip brings a little vocal presence to the grimeyness on BSE's self-titled label.

BLUE BOX MUSIC

Enter a debut from artists currently making waves at the moment - Delta & Format. Their track 'Black and White' goes on a minimal and atmospheric down tempo drum and bass ride along with 'Rain' which changes the pace up just a little bit. Look out for Mark XTC's 'I'm Rushin' & 'Total Control' soon after that.

CHRONIC

After Lemon D's 'Yo DJ' b/w 'Stomper' comes a new artist to the Chronic stable. Cujo fires off with the tracks 'Biters' and 'Soul History', after that watch out for Silver's (of Sonic & Silver / Accidental Heroes) debut 'Get On Down' & 'Studio 57' on the label.

CORE

Core Records now come with their fifth hit. After 'Alien Miscarriage VIP' biz by Texan arQer they take it to South Africa where they find little known artist Counter Strike, who cooks up a tasty debut. 'Doom Prophet' and 'Strike Damaged' take no prisoners at all.

DANGER

Undercover biz, but it's no secret of who's on vox, he's perhaps the most livest lyricists on the planet. The twelve is accompanied by a great dub version, so the choice is up to you.

DARK 001

It's that long awaited golden oldie that you've all heard banging out in the clubs for yonks and yonks now. Yep Top Buzz's 'Living In Darkness' is finally here. It's a twelve with two equally smashing edits from Mulder and also Rascal & Klone to suit any mood.

DISTORTED MINDS

Artists and label of the same name, if you haven't heard of them now, you soon will do. They've got some heavy tunes on the way and they'll be on some heavy labels too. 'Lookin For Us' and 'Let It Roll' are no different. Both featuring MC Jakes, these two are guaranteed to smack up any dancefloor.

DSCI4

After the explosion that 'Spy Technologies LP' caused on the scene it's time to ease the DSCI4 label back in with a fantastic EP. All four tracks are by Hungary's most prolific producer SKC. Flexing his finest tech-step and atmospheric combinations look out for - 'Devotee', 'Flex', 'Solaris' & 'Broken'.

EASTSIDE

After celebrating Eastside's 50th release with the 'Eastside Jamz Volume II' comes a single debut from Nos (of Hidden Agenda). 'Groove Me' turns up the liquid heat, whilst 'Overtone' drops some reminiscent Hidden Agenda flavour. Look out for another Eastside single debut from Break as well as a twelve from A-Sides shortly after too.

FLEX

It's time for the mighty remix pressure from the Flex camp now. Two remixes of 'Ital's Theme' by Ital Rockers graces the next twelve. Digital takes you on a 2002 dubbed out excursion as he only knows how of this classic jungle cut. On the flip Mickey Finn and **L Double** put their heads together again for their take.

FUZE

Eastside sister label Fuze gets ready to deliver some cuts again. Outsider & Lynx turn out two tech-step lead numbers, going in on a very deep and menacing tip. After that watch out for the return of the Vagrant with the hard and heavy 'Fleabite' & cold like ice roller 'Phases'.

HUSTLIN' BEATS

Those tunes 'Big Bad Sound' & 'Global Clash' have finally come through for Hustlin' Beats third release. The Visionary duo from Canada sign for their first release at Fearless, Ruckus and Dillegence's label. Proper running dancefloor business all the way on these two.

JEDI RECORDINGS

Canada's Jedi Recordings step up with their extended player premier. There's four superb dancefloor tracks from three different artists here. **D-Region** is under starters orders with 'Edit', Visionary comes with 'Show Me' and Illfingas holds down both sides of the second slab of wax (including a remix of 'Glass Slipper').

JERONA FRUITS

Debuting record label Jerona Fruits gets off to a pleasing start with their two tunes 'Smith' (featuring Alec Sun Drae) and 'Chime'. First release homes in on the more musical / liquid style of drum n bass. Carlito is on remix duty for the flipside turning on the soul-funk vibes.

MEDIA

Canadian Stranjah opens his account at Media delivering a nice and easy rolling cut called 'You Got Me'. 'Don't Wanna' will no doubt appeal to those feeling the liquid vibes. An EP then drops featuring remixes by Total Science, Invaderz, Tango and Distorted Minds of Media's tracks so far.

MIX & BLEN'

Following on from the G Squad (Roll 'Em Up / No Problem) is the long awaited Kenny Ken & **MC Fats** collaboration 'DnB Souljah'. Fats' unmistakable soulful wails of 'we are drum n bass souljah' ride the big basslines on this uplifting riddim. Look out for a debut next from Xample with 'Full Force' & 'Be There'.

MONITOR

Kryptic Minds (also signed to Frequency) release their second twelve on Mix & Blen' sub-label Monitor - 'Peak Flow' b/w 'Clear Head'. If you've been following this label then you will know that each release has been a tearer, this next one is no different.

MUSYKA

Second offering from this unknown sourced label turns on some steppy Samba heat complete with female Latino ad-libs and crooning on 'Filtro'. 'In10city' turns on the dancefloor funk with some resonating dancefloor fuelled bassline.

ON POINT

The Canadian duo of Catchin' Wreck who have now cracked the UK recently thanks to their TOV outing touch down on Toronto's On Point imprint. They supply the deep rolling track 'Vibrations', that's backed with label owner **Everfresh's** cool liquid tinged 'I Like It'. Look out for the Mega Ton Project next up.

PIRATE

Numbers two and three come from the undercover label Pirate. Combining popular hip hop lyrics over party orientated drum and bass tracks is the order of the day here. 'Oochie' is the next instantly recognisable release on the imprint followed by 'Perfect Beat' (drum and bass and breaks mixes).

PLANET FUNK

After **Mace's** debut (Love & Devotion / Mars Attacks) on his and Kenny Ken's new Planet Funk imprint it's the turn of Ed Funk (from Funk & Flex) with 'Lazy Afternoon' & 'Breezin'. Forthcoming musical / liquid releases will be coming the likes of from Kenny, Mace, Supply & Demand, Ed Funk & DJ Dappa.

PROPER TALENT

DJ Rap's Proper Talent goes on to receive more acclaim striving to break new ground, by sticking to its uncon-formist guns. Rage (who will soon be releasing on Basement) steps up to deliver the tough and gritty 'Crackdown'. On the flip Tango puts his point across on the already old skool swayed tune.

RUDE

An undisclosed source has set the ball rolling for the first in the series of Rude (catalogue) numbers. Rudebwoylicious is the pseudonym and these first two tracks will definitely appeal to those who crave the sound of ragga jungle. '2 Bad' is destined to have massive impact on all dancefloors, as is 'Murderah'.

RUGGED VINYL

The first in the series of Rugged Vinyl Classics comes down now. One of Kenny Ken's (together with DRS) first studio outings and one of jungle's most legendary tunes 'Everyman' touches. No explanation need be given here, it's a part of history.

SINUOUS

After the ground shaking debut of Sinuous Records and artist I-Rate the next hit lands without delay. Tricorn brings 'Orient' and 'Raw 1000' for release number two. Also watch out for Sinuous' hatrick - the 'Transformed' EP - featuring I-Rate, Jarman vs **Kano** & Killer Instinct.

SOLID VINYL

Responsible for many great nu skool breaks releases of late is the Solid Vinyl imprint. Next cut ventures into drum n bass territory. Mr Quest and Flying Doctor team up with legendary jungle emcee **Sive 0** to bring us 'Weeda Gunjah'. Mr Quest goes solo on the flip with 'Wanna Know Why' (featuring Ragga Ranks).

TWO01

Repressed due to popular demand, the clue is once again in the catalogue number and also the title - 'Ooops Oh My'. Two big artists have joined together to remix this one, the ladies love it and that should be reason enough to have it in your box.

UNSTABLE

A massive party classic known as 'Pigbag' by **DJ Era** is given the nu skool breakz treatment. The riff will get you instantaneously. New signing Ricochet serves up something for the breakbeat purist on the flip. 'Monster' is a mean, dirty and floor scraping number. Not for the faint hearted!

URBAN TAKEOVER

Special K's 'Twist' remix gets the long awaited release on Urban Takeover. Ray Keith drops a dark and dirty version for the flip too. That follows Peshay's big remix of 'When The Morning Comes', Nickey Finn & L Double lay down the flipside relick.

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MICKEY FINN

A year has passed since our last feature on Mickey Finn. Since then his reputation as a producer has been boosted thanks in part to a deluge of remix work. More often than not teaming up with sidekick L Double in the lab, the two have remixed most recently Pharoahe Monch's 'Last Dayz' for Adam F's 'Drum and Bass Warfare LP', 'When The Morning Comes' for Urban Takeover and an assortment of hip hop rewritings too. Within the last year the Urban Takeover group has fulfilled its desire to create two new record labels, Shakedown and Dramatix. We thought it would be impossible for things to get any busier than the last time we spoke but with Mickey and L's first album looming, and Mickey's DMC compilation just released we couldn't be more wrong.

If you've encountered Mr Finn deejaying at a party recently you will have noticed a big difference and we're not talking about his selection of fine upfront dubs either. Mickey has now followed suit of record label partner Gavin King (Aphro) in giving that legendary flowing mane the snip. Both ravers and fellow artists have had to come to terms with the fact that it's not Mickey's younger brother meandering through the sweaty crowds with his record box. Lexicon sets the dictaphone to record mode to catch all the latest on Mickey, Urban Takeover and forthcoming projects.

The Urban Shakedown years were a pinnacle moment for both Mickey and Gavin. For establishing a new record label, Shakedown was a perfect name to set the mood and continue the legacy and success that the name had endured. With crazy amounts of good demos flooding their Docklands office it was only a matter of time before such a label would have to be put into action. ***"At Urban Takeover we were going to run into a backlog of telling people their stuff wouldn't be out for eighteen months, which is way to long. We're getting a good reaction and we're happy so far."*** As for judging which release should be deemed suitable for Shakedown or Dramatix, it's purely down to the reaction and feedback from the players and ravers alike. If a track carries mass appeal then it will be released with Urban Takeover. There are no set formulas or instructions about the vibe of a tune and whether it will be chosen for either of the new labels.

Urban Takeover has always been known for bringing new artists to the fore, often regardless of where they are based. Mulder made his name on the imprint, as did Muffler from Norway, Rascal & Klone have sure upped their profile since releasing on Urban Takeover, as have Ascend & Skope. Now it's the turn of Jez Q and Shere Khan & Dimensions who have notched up releases on new label Dramatix. ***"As a deejay, I play something because I like it, not because Andy C made it, not because Dillinja made it, but because I like it. I don't care if it came from Timbuktu or from the deepest corner of Kent. It doesn't matter to me, because you should want that record for what it is. We're getting caught in a day and age where there's almost a fashion statement that goes with it.***

I always remember as a deejay, hearing records in a shop and liking it because I liked it. Down at Urban Takeover it's always been about if we like it, we'll sign it." True to his word both Mickey and Gavin have signed artists from places such as Norway and Canada at a time when others might not have been prepared to take risks in being linked with artists from outside of the UK. ***"Look at 'Superman' a lot of people didn't like it but there was also a lot of people who did so we're not a fashion label you know. We take risks, not all of our artists are well known but we believe in them, we believe in their music. We license it and we release it."***

And on to the work that Mickey and L Double have been doing (L is busy at the controls in Mickey's loft studio as we speak). ***"Nine times out of ten, I'm in the studio with L at the moment. We're working right now on a Jaheim remix. I've done a little disco thing with Gavin (You Better Run), we've got to finish off the b-side as we haven't done anything together for quite a while and we want to. I've been concentrating on working on this album with L, more than anything."***

Expect an equal blend of both vocal and instrumental tracks for the forthcoming LP. Whilst not letting off too much information Mickey does divulge a mystery American songstress has been brought in for two tracks; a link up with Deadly Hunta of the Coalition (who appeared on Aphro's 'Ganja Man' during the summer) has been made; Rawhill Crew frontman MC Navigator has been given a call and the vocals of Iggy Pop will even feature in the mix too. At this stage it already sounds like a diverse project. **"With this album we've had to take into consideration that there's going to be a lot of listening going on, maybe in the car, maybe at home. I don't just want to make an album where people just bang out to it. I want to be able to listen to it in the car at all different times of day."**

But if you can't wait for that then you will have to check Mickey's foray into compilation land, courtesy of DMC, aptly named 'The Takeover Bid 2'. Both Mickey and Gavin are no strangers to the concept and have both done mixes for Mixmag, the previous owners of the series. ***"I try and lay down a set of music in maybe the way someone makes a record. It's got an intro, you kick it in, have a little breather, kick it in again and then roll it out, or whatever, people have got different ways of working. I try to take people on a journey. You've got to take into consideration every angle and also the fact that people will listen to it again and again and again. So I have to get it as right as possible."***

As he locks on to the strength of a tune before flicking for artist credentials Mickey must have carefully selected the tunes for 'The Takeover Bid 2'. He stresses that he plays a record for what it is and not who it's made by. ***"If people are dancing to music does it make them get into that record more if they know who that artist is or do they just dance to that record because they like it?"*** Mickey questions whether you judge a record on the radio in the same way, or whether will you wait for the deejays to reveal the artist before making up your mind.

Having now branched out into other aspects of the music and entertainment industry, including buying the rights for the Innovation parties a couple of years ago, forming the Urban (artist) agency and supporting a new record distribution company what can be next in the global domination plans of Mickey Finn? Our subject approaches this one with caution as it's clear that not everyone is over zealous about Finn's expanding empire. Mickey has even heard of comparisons made about him being the jungle / drum and bass version of Suge Knight, he rebukes ridiculous comparisons of course. He also challenges absurd similarities, plain and simply, by asking why is it so wrong to be a hard grafter?

"Two of the things that me and Gavin have got involved with have been babies turning into monsters. We never intended them to get were they have today, but they have through various reasons. The agency has done quite well, we have quite a few people over here now. The distribution company has done really well too. We took the risk, we put our time into it and it paid off." It's a similar story with the Innovation parties, recently Innovation held their first drum and bass weekender at Camber Sands. ***"The Innovation weekender worked out brilliant for the whole drum and bass scene, not for me. It showed that we can pull off things like that, that we can fill up venues, that we are a force to be taken seriously. I think it's about time people started looking at this scene and thinking of us as major contenders within this dance umbrella in England."***

It seems to be that the punters agreed going by the word on the street and it seems the organisers, who also staged house and garage arenas would agree. They've already called Innovation back for a re-match next May. With a more hands on approach next year it's something that Mickey is clearly relishing the prospect of. Ideas being toyed with at the moment include more daytime entertainment such as a deejays versus emcees football match. Also twenty four hour television, already billed as the 'Innovation Challenge', is being proposed.

If you happen to be staying in a chalet for the next one, just listen out for that ominous knock on the door, you have been warned! ***"We're just going to have a laugh, because that's what people want to do. I think in the last few years the fun element has gone a little bit, it's got a bit serious. It's like 'hold on, what do we go out for?'. I thought it was all about having fun? That's what I used to go out for. So with Innovation we try and put the fun back into it and don't take it so seriously."***

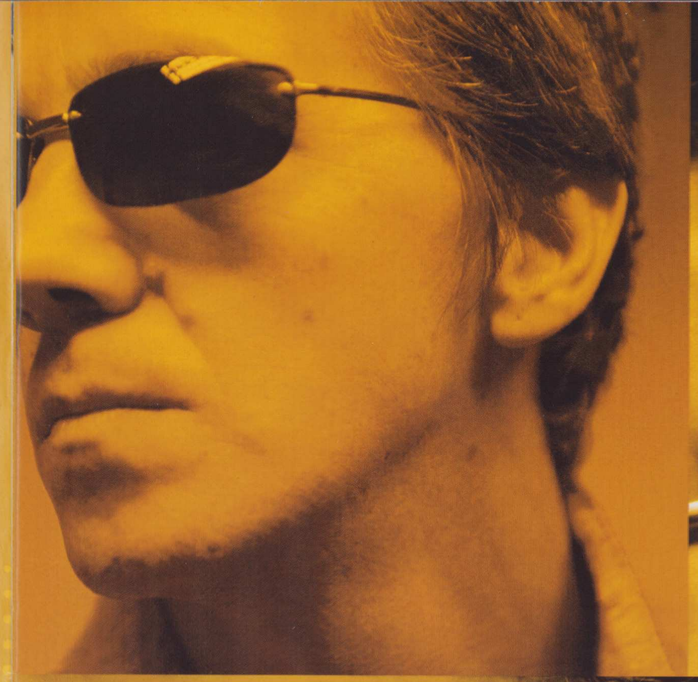
Mickey concludes that being involved with all these activities have helped lift him up and away from a more sinister route in life. ***"Believe me I don't want to go back to the life I used to lead, I really don't want to lead that life anymore. I'm trying to do my little bit, to put back into something that took me away from a shity life."*** A stern warning to those who have nothing better to do than denounce Mickey's moves: ***"I should get you in a car one day and show you the kind of life I used to live. Maybe then you would start understanding why I do what I do. I am just trying to keep my head above water and do things that are good for the scene."***

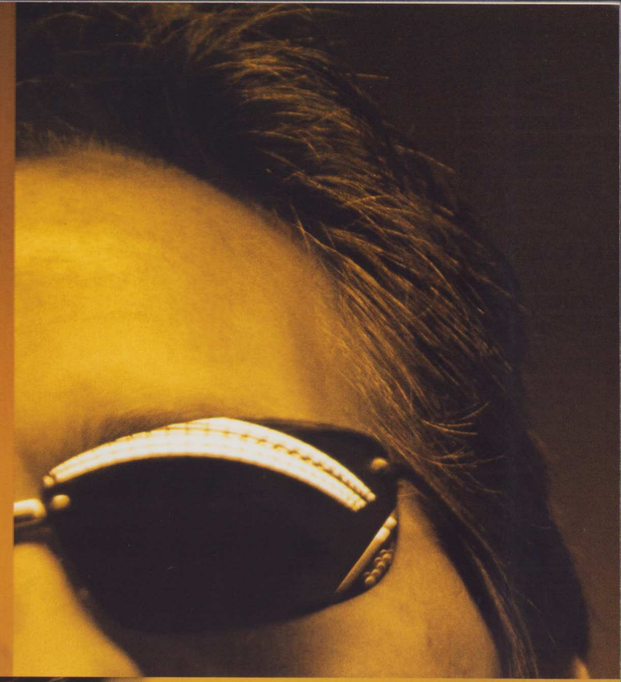
Now living in his rural retreat of Kent (a total and deliberate contradiction to the hustle and bustle of the scene) Mickey further declares his love and input to the scene. Whilst on his global trotting travels, he's always on the look out to help newly conquered drum and bass territories. ***"I give people Unique's number or UMC's number, because I understand that I can't go back to Taiwan every other month and that the scene will die without other people going there. I'm not one of these people that are like 'I'll just keep it to myself'. That's rubbish, the scene won't stay alive by you keeping it to yourself. I represent the scene. It really gets to me that that's the way things work sometimes and that certain individuals want to be like that."***

.....

'The Takeover Bid 2' is out now on DMC. Peshay's take of 'When The Morning Comes' on Urban Takeover, is in stores now, followed by Special K and Ray Keith's remix of 'Twist'. Out now on Dramatix is Shere Khan and Dimension's 'Brazil' & 'Time 2 See' (DRAMA 001 - Jez Q's 'Voices' b/w 'Psychotic').

"...I'm trying to do my little bit, to put back into something that took me away from a shity life."





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JUST NOYZE

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emcee RECORDINGS

dj clipz and mechanizm

Intro

It's an all too familiar story of the struggling bedroom producer striving to borrow the ear of A&R personnel let alone get recognition in the scene for their work. So when two hungry beat rookies paths cross with a figure that's about to start a record label you've got to admit that's good timing. That's how the story went for a duo that would be later known by the general public as Mechanizm. From the word go they have been lucky enough to receive hundred per cent backing and support from the honchos of Emcee Recordings and Primary Colours, MC GQ and Mark Turner. Now with deejay residencies at the Emcee Monthly Sessions, demand for remix and deejay work from the Full Cycle camp and a first extended player release from one of the duo it's definitely 'show time'.

In the last couple of months Steve and Hugh have decided to concentrate individually on studio work as the obstacle of distance that their home towns of London and Bristol have brought have caused a strain on their dedicated studio time. Hugh can now been found going by the name of Clipz whilst Steve retains the Mechanizm moniker, and for the record they're still good friends, unlike many a scandalous website forum has reported of late!

tune called 'Cuban Links' finding favour amongst the big dogs, the Clipz brand has already established itself. Clipz has made so much noise in fact that some of his fellow Bristolians down at Full Cycle have been egging on him with encouragement. "They just like someone new coming out of Bristol at the moment, someone who's got tunes in their bag. The only reason I make tunes is for my record box and to hear them. I don't make them for any other reason, they're in to them and I love it when they play them. It's just moved on from there really, they've let me come and play at a few of their things."

Clipz' route to the scene today started from pre-teenage years making his way through different instruments until he found one that really stuck. "When I was a kid, eleven, or maybe twelve, I was always playing instruments. I would learn them a bit, but then just get bored of them because they weren't what I wanted to do. When I was twelve or thirteen I went around my mate's house. They had some turntables, they were a lot older than me and were mixing hip hop. I was like 'shit, this is what I want to do, this is the instrument I have being looking for'."

A year later school was shelved upon discovery of another friend possessing an Akai S01. The compulsory listening to the likes of Fantazia recorded tapes also helped seal the fascination with wanting to learn this new craft. At age thirteen Clipz played at his first club, for which he was amazed to get paid for, he then went on to play at renowned Bristol spot Club Loco as well as some of the biggest raves in the South West like Mutiny, Drive By and others. With a steady head Clipz realizes that he's got to keep going in terms of taking his production as well as his deejaying skills further even with all the accolades he's received so far.

Watch out for 'Health Warning' and 'Killer Amen' (a Clipz solo release and not Mechanizm as previously advertised)

Mechanizm

Steve now the one known as Mechanizm would meet Clipz through a mutual friend, Freaky, of former record label Hyper Records. Informed that Clipz was doing a spot of engineering for Hyper it wasn't long before they got together for a session in the lab. A little while later Steve would make the return trip to Bristol and continue where they had left off, at the time Clipz was working with locals such as DJ XS of 24/7 Recordings. It was MC 2Shy that raved about Steve and Hugh's work to Mark. 'Dark Areas' was on the original demo, as was 'Roll Up' - a deal was done between all parties with haste.

Previous to the Emcee deal Steve had been knocking up beats with James Brown (now Xpress 2's engineer) and Mike Spencer who had worked extensively with The Definition of Sound. It wasn't full time by any means, but looked upon as a hobby and a way to gain some experience. "Clipz had done tunes previously, but I wouldn't have called myself a producer in anyway, it had all been experimental as far as I'm concerned. It was very much a learning curve, and between the two of us we were just managing to get a few deals together." Steve has been deejaying too since the early nineties, his deejay tag Devastate graced the pirate FM dial and stations Eruption and Rude.

Steve confesses that he underestimated what effect the distance he and Clipz lived apart would have as more demand came upon them for turning out the tunes. "You know it's a round trip of 250 miles, then a hardcore slog of four days in the studio. As an outfit I couldn't maintain what was needed to make it work. I've carried the Mechanizm name on, even though people who know me, know I'm called Devastate, but I liked the Mechanizm name." Steve has admitted that the separation has been good as an analytical break into not only his own music but also life in general. Everything has been left open at this point, so don't be surprised to see the Mechanizm right alongside the Clipz name again in the future.

Steve is equally as busy right now in the studio. He's teamed up with Wagner from Kool FM to form a partnership called Love Foundation. As the name suggests they're going to be hitting on the more musical note of drum & bass, "more grown up, with a nice vibe" as Steve says. Two tracks have been submitted to A&R control at Emcee and a good response is already coming back. Other current projects including one with Ruffstuff and also emcees 2Shy and Trip are all coming along nicely.

Mechanizm photo by Phil-P / Clipz photo by Hacker

DJ Clipz

Hugh has been moving back and forth between his birthplace of London and his adopted home of Bristol. It was whilst spending a period of time in London he would meet Emcee's Mark deejaying on the Interface Pirate Radio station. Clipz now resides in Bristol where his studio is located too. After Mark and GQ liking what they were hearing in Mechanizm's demo and with Emcee just about to let loose the guys were well on their way to their first signing with a record label.

It's Clipz' first solo outing for Emcee that has recently hit the shops, the 'Showtime EP'. With a particular due on Primary Colours any time now. Following that will be Mechanizm and Clipz with 'Gatekeeper' and 'Slug Thug' on Emcee with another six or seven Clipz releases all in the pipeline. Don't forget also Clipz's drum & bass remix of 'It's On' by DJ Die, Skitz, Dynamite and Rodney P.

notch

Two names that have definitely helped to define the rave scene over a decade ago with their seminal hits are Tango & Ratty. Whilst both professionally deejay and produce, it's Tango who has been more known for his production teaming up with the likes of DJ Pulse, DJ Lee and Ratty in the past. In the height of the burgeoning rave scene it was Ratty's name who was always at the top of the A4 flyer winning over crowds with his scratching technique and dubplate pressure.

In 1996 the releases stopped flowing, as they once did and this was picked up again only last year with a Digital remix of their most famed '92 classic 'Tales From The Darkside', on Timeless. Since then they've released on L Plates (Senseless / Inventa), Media (Mainline / Sent To Coventry) and the recently revived Basement Records (Train Track relick). Tango also kicked off his own label Notch with the massive Total Science remix of 'Understand' (a '96 Creative Wax release) and 'Transmission'. Lexicon got on the blower to Tango at his Solihull studio to find out more.

What have you been doing in the break from production, that only kicked off again last year?

T: In that time I had gone back to work, I'm a chef by trade. I think to be honest with you I was kind of running out of ideas. I had run out of inspiration and was just working by myself all the time, which doesn't really work for some people that well. So it just kind of went out of the window for a little bit unfortunately.

What do you think of the standard of dnb production right now, compared to say when you left off in 96?

T: I think now it's better. It did go through a stage where I think it got a bit murky and people started running out of ideas. It also went through a stage where everyone was doing the jazzy stuff, which I couldn't relate to all that much. But I think it's got to the point now where there's a healthy mixture of everything going on.

Which tune have you enjoyed making the most in your career so far?

T: Probably the track I did for Creative Wax, 'Understand' and 'Spellbound'. That got quite a lot of attention for me, especially as 'Spellbound' was the jazzier side and a little bit different for me. Now I'm enjoying it more than I have for quite some time because my production has just got better, which it does in time anyway, but I'm just feeling it more now. The stuff I'm doing with Ratty now above the stuff I'm doing on my own I'm getting into a lot more now.

How does an average day in the studio go for you?

T: Ratty normally gets round here about 10ish or whenever he can get out of bed! We start from scratch and just get a few samples and a few basic ideas together. Then we'll break for lunch or whatever and crack on with it in the afternoon. Nine times out of ten we'll start off with an idea for a track and then end up with something totally different, as it often does with people. We normally end up with the desired result either way though, we haven't ended up with any complete turkeys this year so that's good!

What are you working on right now?

T: I've been working on a new thing with Ratty. We don't know what we're going to do with that to be honest, it's a bit more dancefloor than we normally do. We've got two tracks waiting to come out on Function in the new year. They're called 'Snake Style' and 'Steel Fingers', Grooverider played 'Steel Fingers' a couple of weeks ago which is good.

I've got a couple of new things that I will be bringing out on my own label Notch in the new year too. There's a remix of an old Neil Trix tune, 'Terminate' which was an old FBP Project tune from about '93/'94, so I've done a new version of that. I'm also doing some vocal stuff as well, it's not something I've really touched on so it's about time I had a go.

You've been closely linked with Digital and Total Science lately, are you got anything lined up with them in the near future?

T: The track we did on L-Plates (Senseless / Inventa) has apparently gone really well, that again received plays from Grooverider and other people. The twelve was most definitely one of the best things we've done all year. We're doing a remix of a Total Science track as well, that was on Function, I'm just waiting for Smithy to send me the samples for that this week. We're doing a twelve for Crash as well, it's called 'Sleazebag' and is coming out in the new year.

I do nu skool breaks as well, which has taken up quite a lot of my time this year. It's nice to do something a bit different, rather than just doing drum and bass. It keeps things fresh as well, it means that when I'm doing drum and bass I tend to appreciate it a little more. There's a lot of producers out there now doing varied stuff, I think you need to do it to keep yourself interested really.

You've had some breaks releases on Marine Parade as well...

T: Yeah, I've had one on Marine Parade, I've got a couple on Mob Records, also Fat Records and I've just done a remix for TCR, which is a Meat Katie track. I've got remixes in the new year lined up for Koma & Bones. We've done quite well this year with all the big names on the scene playing our stuff including the Stanton Warriors. They play about five or six of our tunes every set so that's been a right result. I will still be concentrating quite heavily on that side of things next year.

Will your own label Notch see any breaks releases?

T: I had thought about it and would like to for the new year but I've really had to take a step back from doing my own label really just for the sake of money this year to be honest. I only started doing this again full time in November of last year, so it's only just been over a year.

Notch is your first owned record label, why did you choose to start one at this time?

T: I suppose I've always wanted to have my own label and people in the past have always said to me why don't you start your own label. A lot of the time it was just down to not having the money to do it. Also having the Total Science remix on there for the first tune was good because they're really at the forefront of everything, and it was also a good way to get my name out there again.

Tango has officially thrown his chefing whites into the dirty laundry basket for the last time. With an album to watch out for sometime in 2003 and a string of great drum n bass and breaks releases lined up for Function, Crash, TCR and own label Notch, Tango is most definitely back on point once again.

Ed Rush & Optical. Skynet & Stakka. Marcus Intalex & ST Files. The world of drum and bass is peppered with famous partnerships such as these. We rarely see one of these names unaccompanied by the other and it seems that these producers are at their most comfortable in the studio as one half of a deadly duo. Another well known double act to emerge from the scene are Special K & D'Cruze. Both names will be familiar to anyone involved in drum & bass at any point over the last ten years. This is due to a string of storming tunes unleashed initially as individual producers and more recently together. Between them they have notched up an impressive list of production credits working for some of the biggest and most influential labels in drum & bass. Both Special K & D'Cruze hit the mark early on with high profile releases (most notably Special K's: 'Danger' & D'Cruze's: 'Want You Now'), but the time has come for this pair to raise their game and reach those same dizzy heights, only now they're operating as a partnership.

Kraig Martin (Special K) left school in 1991 and immediately found himself drawn to and immersed by the rave scene. Based in North Kent, he switched on to the pirates and it wasn't long before he acquired a pair of cheap decks and taught himself the basics. A significant turning point occurred sometime during 1993 when upon being made redundant, Kraig noticed a gap in the market for a decent record shop in his local area. He opened Vinyl Conflict Records in Bexleyheath (which remains to this day the UK's longest serving pure drum & bass outlet) and everything changed. Kraig explains: "I went from sending tapes out and hoping for the best, to actually being in touch with the promoters. Opening Vinyl Conflict meant I was speaking to people involved in the scene on a daily basis. It opened a lot of doors for me personally". Rave promoters Desire were among the first to recognise Kraig's talents and booked him to play alongside some of the biggest names in drum & bass. He never looked back and has continued a long and varied deejaying career spanning the best part of a decade and taking him all over Europe, the US, Japan and even Thailand.

By 1994, Kraig had turned his hand to the production side of things, initially working closely with an engineer, learning the ropes. Products of these first few experiments included 'Death Row' and 'Time Is Getting Ruff', both picked up by Krome & Time for their Tearin Vinyl label. DJ Rap was also instrumental in this rise to prominence by releasing Special K's early classic 'Pressure Roll' on her Proper Talent imprint and tunes such as 'Chopsticks' and 'Get Original' on sister label Lowkey. "Rap was one of the first to pick up on the stuff I was doing" says Kraig. "That really gave me the belief in my tunes. The releases on Proper Talent and Trouble On Vinyl really set the ball rolling as far as the production side of things was concerned." It was the massive 'Danger' on Trouble On Vinyl that propelled the Special K moniker right to the forefront of the scene and sealed his place amongst the elite receiving airplay on Radio 1 and Kiss FM. The list of labels to be graced by Special K includes such luminaries as True Playaz and Urban Takeover. More recently however, his efforts have been directed towards the labels he and Jay run together, namely Bomb Productions and JAK Audio.

Jay D'Cruze's journey through drum & bass also starts around the turn of the last decade. Whiling away his teenage years on a diet of hip hop and pirate radio, the young Jay soon bunkered up in the studio and emerged clutching a bunch of early experiments. His talent was spotted at this embryonic stage and he was snapped up by the legendary Suburban Base. He went on to produce some rave classics including 'Want You Now' and 'World Within A World' which culminated in the release of the album 'Control' for Suburban Base, remarkable for the fact that artist albums were extremely rare at the time. "Suburban Base signed me off a tape I sent them and I spent the best part of four or five years with them" Jay explains. "I was never really into the deejaying side of things, I didn't really have the confidence. I was happy making tunes." Jay's biggest moment however, undoubtedly came with the release of the massive 'Dark Stranger', a collaboration with Dan Donnelly under the name Boogie Times Tribe and remixed by Ram's Origin Unknown. Reinforcing its status as a legendary tune, 'Dark Stranger' was plucked from the vaults and given a relick at the beginning of last year.

photo by Ritz Smith

Being friends from way back, Kraig and Jay's repeated promises to collaborate only finally came to fruition in 1998 when Jay moved in to the house two doors down from Kraig. The pair got to work immediately and hatched a plan to start Bomb Productions. A joint production "Tension /One System" landed in early '99 and notice was served that the duo had truly arrived. While Bomb has continued to push the heavier, more dancefloor orientated material right up to most recent monster release "Screwdriver /Tiger Bass" (Bomb 7), sister imprint JAK Audio was formed to reflect the other side of the Special K & D'Cruze coin. Kraig explains the philosophy behind JAK: "With the amount of tunes we're making, one label was never going to hold it all. We started JAK Audio to release the stuff we felt wasn't right for Bomb. It's not necessarily more experimental or anything, it's less dancefloor driven. It's just us bringing different flavours". As if this wasn't enough, the prolific pair each has a label specifically geared towards their own, individual output. Kraig's Vinyl Conflict label has now clocked up four releases and Jay has found time to kick his Spraycan imprint off with the excellent 'Ybor City'. Alongside these, as a result of Kraig's weekly studio sessions with Darren Jay, the newly formed Vanguard label recently got off to a flier with the massive 'Blow'.
Special K & D'Cruze's current rich vein of form reflects their feelings on the state of drum & bass today. "It's such a positive time right now" enthuses Kraig. "There's so many good producers out there. The international influence is making a real difference. Nobody would have believed ten years ago that so many overseas producers would be having the impact they're having now. It's such a healthy time for drum & bass. The scene's really opened up in the last couple of years." The future also looks bright for this duo. With four labels on the go between them (Bomb, JAK, Vinyl Conflict & Spraycan) surely they're busy enough?

Jay thinks otherwise: "We've got loads more things in the pipeline. As well as stuff for the labels, we've got an album project coming out on Peshay's Cubik Music label. It's Special K & D'Cruze on a totally different tip. It'll surprise a few people!" The only thing that won't surprise people is the fact that the most prolific duo in drum & bass are flying high and fully intending to stay there.

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Slow Motion is a relatively a new label on the drum and bass scene and touched down with their first release back in october '99. Over the last two years the Slow Motion crew have grown and have gone on to become household names working with artists like Brockie, DJ Kane, Ed Solo, Reinforced Records & the Trouble On Vinyl label. It all started with the duo of T-Lite & Snypa who hooked up at Camden Records. "We just linked with each other and had bedroom producer mates who wanted a part of the scene too" says Dom, better known as Snypa.

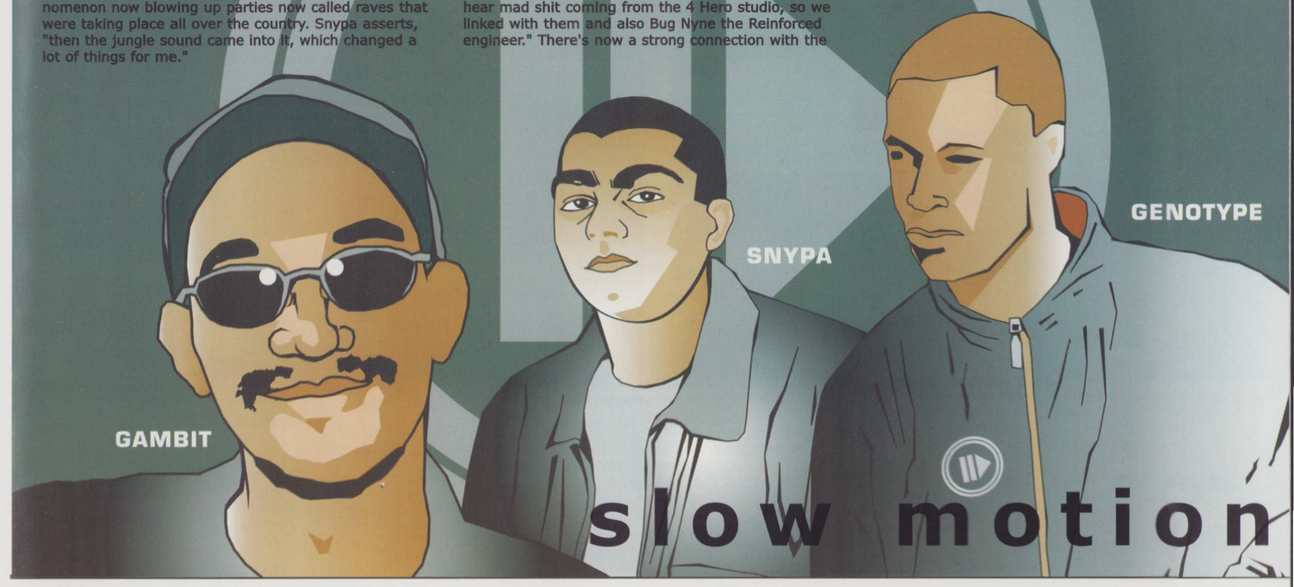
T-lite grew up with hip hop influences in the late eighties and was then introduced to the underground sound by the way of pirate radio stations such as Kool FM. By '92 he was immersed in the sounds of hardcore, which made him want to part in this music business but specifically the drum and bass genre. Synpa had also taken to the sounds coming out of the hardcore era and was keen to know more about the phenomenon now blowing up parties now called raves that were taking place all over the country. Snypa asserts, "then the jungle sound came into it, which changed a lot of things for me."

Also forming part of the Slow Motion team now is Gambit. A good friend of T-Lite's for many years now, Gambit explains "I have been producing music for many years in my bedroom and just needed that extra confidence within myself from people like T-Lite." Another producer of the experienced kind, Genotype, is down with the label too. Some of his past credentials in the drum and bass scene include engineering for Future Forces (Bad Company) and DJ Kane amongst others. Moving Shadow, TOV and L -Plates have all seen Genotype releases, and he's pleased to be with his current home.

"So what is the Slow Motion sound?" I ask Snypa. "The best way to describe our sound would be to say it's dancefloor orientated every time, nothing less." Snypa also adds: "we put in a mixture of jazz, dark sounds, it's really like a recipe of different ingredients put into the mix." The crew were at first unaware of the close proximity of the Reinforced Records North London studio to theirs. "It was like wow! We would hear mad shit coming from the 4 Hero studio, so we linked with them and also Bug Nyne the Reinforced engineer." There's now a strong connection with the Dollis Hill massive, with all SM artists having released with the label too including last family member to be mentioned Alpha Omega.

After eight singles and an EP under their belt and giving their studio a makeover, you can only expect bigger and better things from the Slow Motion crew. "We are a team with many ideas and hungry to succeed at this business and deliver good music" declares Gambit. Recognise that Gambit is one half of Artificial Intelligence, with a release due on Klute's Commercial Suicide (Soul Good & Embrace) and also looks set to be joining the Soul:R discography soon too.

An album project is drawn up in future plans for Slow Motion and USA watch out in 2003 as the guys will be hitting you up with their Stateside tour. Slow Motion's latest release is Genotype's 'Ground Force' b/w 'Dark Groove', after that standby for 'Boardwalk' & 'Boot Camp'.



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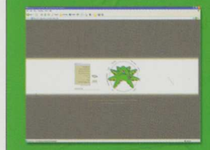

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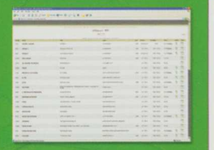

Banner advertising on Dogs On Acid has helped the site receive almost half a million impressions. Classic Trax sell fresh dnb releases and promos from £3.99, one of the cheapest online. They offer a pre-order service, that covers a week to ten days in advance of new releases and ensures swift dispatch of orders as new stock arrives.

The Classic Trax site uses SSL encryption technology, so you're in safe hands if you want to pay with a variety of credit or debit cards. You can pay with Visa, Mastercard, Delta, Switch, Solo and even Electron. If you have a Paypal account you can pay by this method too, all built into the shopping cart for your ease and convenience. All orders are dispatched same day, if your order is in before 4pm GMT.

Our aim at Classic Trax is to provide an efficient, reliable worldwide mail order service that sells underground dance vinyl covering all eras of the digital music revolution, from the past up to the current day.

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COMPETITION TIME

WORLD DANCE MOVEMENT

Movement and World Dance join forces with Ministry of Sound this year for one of the UK's biggest drum and bass parties held at the Millennium Dome. The fifteen hour NYE marathon will feature a spectacular pyrotechnics show at midnight, states of the art sound system, many other attractions and host the finest house, UK garage, r&b, as well as drum and bass arenas. 50,000 people are expected to attend the event making it the biggest dance event in the country this New Years Eve.

We have two pairs of tickets to give away to two lucky winners. Bacardi are also supplying goodie bags with CDs, Bacardi (obviously) and drinks tokens for use exclusively at the Bacardi Bbar inside the Dome. Here's what Grooverider had to say about the upcoming jam:

"Last year was the best party of the year for me – it was wicked... If that's anything to go by – maaaan it's going to be fun!"

Artists representing the representing the drum n bass section in the World Dance and Movement arena will be: DJ Hype, Andy C, Bryan Gee, Fabio, DJ Marky (Brasil), Grooverider, DJ Patife (Brasil), Mickey Finn, Kenny Ken, The Ratpack, DJ Addiction, DJ Ruffstuff, GQ, Moose, IC3, Stamina MC, Evenson Allen and Darrison. Headliners of other arenas include Mauro Picotto, Groove Amada, Jazzy M, Full Intention, DJ Spoony, Masterstepz, Stuart Patterson and Ross Allen.

To win yourself entry and goodies for this spanking event just answer the two following questions...

1) What was the name of the recent World Dance album, mixed by Andy C?
2) And, name any other venue outside of London that Movement have recently held a tour night at?

You can send your entry via email or post. All email replies to info@movement.co.uk with 'Movement Dome Comp' in the subject bar. Postal entries to be sent to Movement Dome Comp, c/o Bulldozer Media, Old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, London, E1 6QN. Closing date for all entries is 3PM, Friday 20 December.

Dope Ammo's debut LP 'Uprising' is out in all good stores now. For the chance to win yourself a copy (two of either vinyl or CD copies to give away) just answer this dead easy question:

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Send entries to Uprising Comp, c/o Lexicon, 32-33 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, RG14 5LL or email to info@lexiconmag.co.uk with 'Uprising Comp' in the subject bar. At the leave your name and telephone number as contact details.

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DOPE AMMO RECORDS

For any record label gearing up to release a first album project is bound to be an exciting prospect. When you take a label like Dope Ammo who have worked so hard to get where they are today, from humble beginnings flogging 500 whites from the boot of a car, to setting up DA Industries ensuring that they could best manage their own distribution, it's going to be even more so. Drunken Master Coco takes us through the build up to 'Uprising', their long player premier.

Artists featuring on the album - Drunken Masters, Tempa, Hypersonix and DJ Rhyme - have all been nurtured by the Dope Ammo family since its inauguration. ***"We wanted to put out an album that reflected us as individuals. It's really gelled well and has a lot of different elements - dark, funky, soulful, uplifting, all those sort of flavours."*** Two remixes were asked for, one from DJ Hazard and one from Phantasy.

Hazard phoned Coco saying he was feeling 'Deep In The Underground' especially, Coco was already feeling his productions and naturally asked if he would rework it. And with Phantasy: ***"I had been sending him some bits of ours and then met him up at Pyrotechnic. He gave us some real good feedback and said he thought that 'Hypnotised' was a really good dancefloor track. I thought it would be great to see what he could do with something like that."*** It's the Drunken Masters (Pornchai, Bally and our DA spokesperson today Coco) who are the label's primary artists and who have searched for the next wave of artists.

"I didn't want to make Dope Ammo just for the Drunken Masters." Advertising for demos they picked up on Tempa and Hypersonix. ***"They fitted the bill perfectly because Tempa is more dark and nasty and about filtered funk. Hypersonix is at the opposite end, which is a bit more sort of soulful and liquid."*** Coco at first giving advice to Hypersonix, on what studio equipment to buy, warns that he's definitely going to be one to watch. ***"He's about ten times more technical than I am now, it's unbelievable."***

DJ Rhyme is native to Banbury (the same area where the guys grew up) and was egged on his studio induction just a few years ago. ***"He's really a mixture of Drunken Masters, Hypersonix and Tempa's style."*** With a variety of different takes on drum and bass ranging from the dancefloor destroyer of Hazard's 'Deep In The Underground', to the disco fried funk of 'Disco Biscuit' by the Masters, to the liquid tint of Hypersonix 'Turn U Loose' there's something for everyone on this album.

Recent proof from the good feedback that they have received from sending out the album promos also came from Mickey Finn. His initial interest was in putting not one but two of the tracks on his current DMC compilation, Hazard's 'Deep In The Underground' touch up and Drunken Masters 'Disco Biscuit'. In the end 'Disco Biscuit' was just squeezed out but nonetheless the interest shown was still very gratifying.

You would think that after a first LP project like this the guys would be taking it a little easy and that their plans for what's to come maybe not yet set, but no. In fact, another artist album is already being proposed for 2003. ***"I want to make it similar to 'Uprising', in the sense that it's got the same flavours but incorporate the whole vocal thing into that as well."*** They will be bringing vocalists to the fore including Bobbie who appeared on 'Complete With You' (previous to the album) and on the look out for an R&B styled singer and possibly rapper too.

"We don't want to used sampled vocals and I think we're ready to do the vocal thing now." There's also talk of venturing into other genres like hip hop, breaks and even house, but all the while keeping drum and bass the main focus. ***"We just want to put something on it for everyone, we don't want to be tied down to just one sound."*** Now that people are finally paying attention to the Dope Ammo cause, they would like to get their artists further exposure by recording for other labels and want to arrange foreign tours for 2003.

Once heavily involved with the local party scene, the guys regret having to put things on hold but realise that juggling the two just aren't an option if they want to give either of them their maximum effort. That said, and after the success of their LP launch held at Oxford's Cellar Bar, you should expect some sort of jam in the not too distant future ***"where people who have supported the label can just hook up every couple of months to have a bit of a piss up and a laugh."*** See you there!

Knocking down barriers, brushing aside preconceptions and exercising self-control are everything that these guys stand for... More power to them! The 'Uprising' LP is out in all good stores now.

photos by Cleveland Aaron <using Olimpus Camedia E20p>

Precision is one of the most ranking and cutting edge drum and bass labels to come from the heart of Europe. The record label was the brainchild of German artists Kabuki and Mainframe. In 1992 they put their newly found beat making skills to the test. Mainframe opted to learn the skills that would qualify him as an engineer; in fact he learnt the trade well enough to engineer collaborations formed with Nico of No U Turn and with Bad Company (then known as Future Forces). Today Precision also consist of renowned German emcees Ronin and Glacius, and Miguel Ayala who works at their local record store. More recently artists Pentagon, X-Plorer and Dee-Pulse have found a home in Precision Breakbeat Research.

Ronin is one of the long standing emcees from Germany and now takes care of bookings at the Broken Beatz Entertainment agency that manages the schedules of a vast amount of German d&b deejays. Glacius has earned the tag 'emcee machine' thanks to his international demand and subsequent lack of weekends-off. He takes care of Precision's mailing list and mailorder. Miguel Ayala is known for his diverse selection when it comes down to deejaying and his South American roots become apparent in his co-productions with Mainframe. Miguel has his own imprint called 'Socio' too.

Kabuki delivers fifty per cent share of Precision's vision, and takes an active role both in production and deejaying. Classically trained he studied guitar at the Conservatory in Frankfurt and studied jazz at the MI-related AIM-institute in Vienna shortly after. As well as remaining dedicated to PBR Kabuki has released tracks on labels such as Reinforced and Jazzanova's Sonar Kollektiv also.

Precision was launched just over four years ago on the strength of Mainframe and Kabuki's studio efforts. Feeling that their sound didn't conform to that of any domestic labels and not wanting to modify it they saw that taking control of their own work could be the only logical way forward. Admitably Precision have found it hard breaking into peoples consciousness outside of Germany but that looks set to change with so much quality music being pushed now from all corners of the globe.
In the past they've kept their focus on the home market but with the long overdue recognition and attention now being cast their way it's time to broaden their horizons. The camp hope that one day a German producer will be able to find his standing in the world of drum & bass in the same way that Brazilian golden boy Marky has (although they understand the two climates can't compete).

There's always been a link between Precision and Japan, not least in some of the artist names. Feeling they had to break the norm, and so stay clear of Anglo/American phrases and associations, they looked to the land of the rising sun for inspiration. Kabuki had also been invited to deejay over there as a result of an album by artist Makai was licensed there. For their second album called 'Stealth' they were able to arrange pre-production in Tokyo and were looked after. During the stay Kabuki was asked to work for Sony Computer Entertainment on music for a PSX game and also an arcade game made by Konami.

Precision have always listened out for the Japanese drum n bass fraternity (which is bigger than you might think). Kabuki has been interested in one particular partnership of Pentagon for a little while. You may have seen that name before as they have released on Pascal's Frontline Records not too long ago. They made their debut for Precision on the label's last release (Mendoza & Taser). They've also responsible for production of UFO's next album coming soon on Talkin' Loud.

Precision's output is typically cinematic and will capture your imagination instantly. Watch out for the return of Pentagon very soon with 'Lady Bird' & 'Fever'. Out in the shops now though is 'Straylight' & 'Ketamin' by Kabuki.

PRECISION BR
BREAKBEAT RESEARCH

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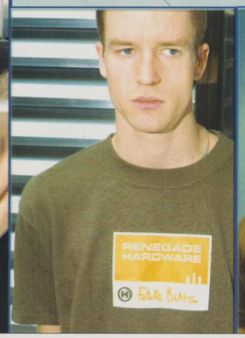

Check out the website for stockist details, club nights and THTC sponsored artists. For general enquiries, email us at: **info@thtc.co.uk**

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Deejays around the world have been buying, spinning and raving to the works of Voyager for over a decade now. Alongside deejays Vlad and Tamsin he has set up the London Breakz imprint, one that all breakbeat heads should take note of. We speak to Pete Voyager and DJ Vlad for an overview and a little history lesson too.

Can you tell the readers' who might be not familiar with your studio history some of the projects and producers you have been involved with over the years?

Pete: Well I've worked with a lot of people, labels and projects, but some of the highlights have to be mixing 'Hardcore Heaven' and various other releases with DJ Seduction, mixing and engineering on both the Caveman albums, co-writing / producing and album with DJ Rap ('Intelligence'), as well as other releases and remixes. Working on almost all of DeeJay / Lucky Spin back catalogue, having some mental times in the studio with the likes of Crystl, Trace, Groovenider, Bukem, Ron, Mickey Finn, Darren Jay, Swift, Tonic, Kenny Ken, Ed Rush, Fokus, Harmony and many others.

Also a major highlight for me was signing an album deal to R&S Records. This gave me the excuse I'd been after for ages to set up a live DnB band. We did loads of gigs in and around Europe, and is one of the achievements I'm most proud of. Also working with Fabio in the studio for the first time was a great laugh, especially when we worked all night on a track and I erased the whole thing in one go!

Your current artist pseudonym Breakneck has been signed to one of the UK's most established breakbeat labels, TCR. What gave you guys the encouragement to launch your own imprint London Breakz?

Pete: I felt that the time had come for me to set up a label that I was in control of and having worked in the UK dance scene for 10/12 years now, I felt that I had a lot of knowledge and experience to give back, through the label and working with other artists.
Vlad: As Pete pointed out, all three of us have had enough years in this business to feel confident to set up our own set of values, and give our view of all the possible directions dance music can take. It is also very important for us to have the freedom of expression to produce a variety of styles.

In five words can you describe the Breakneck sound?

Pete: Raw. Funky. Open Minded. Individual. Kikass.

What plans have you got for London Breakz in 2003?

Pete: To develop as many new artists as we can and to also continue to release our own brand of phat beats and breakz.

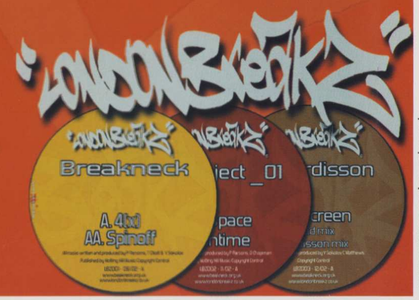
How did Breakneck become engrossed by the genre?

Pete: I got into nu skool breakz by finding myself at a bit of a cross roads in musical terms... I felt that I didn't have anything fresh to put into dnb, and had been using the same sounds and format for too long. I found the whole diversity and rawness of the breakz scene very appealing. Because of its relative infancy, there is still a kind of 'anything goes' vibe that was around in the early days of dnb / jungle which I found really refreshing.
Vlad: I was on it from day one, coming from the house and garage scene myself, I was well into my saturation point where I simply didn't feel enough space and spirit in what I was playing any more, it all started to sound a bit 'heard it all before'. Then one night I ended up at 'Happiness Stan's' down at Smithfields back in '96 / '97 and was simply swept away by the sound of breakbeats. It was like the old skool but sounded so new and fresh! A few months later I started a breakbeat night down at the Gardening Club under the name of 'Breakneck'. The rest is history.

What's your motivation for creating breakbeat?

Pete: Knowing I can take a hip hop sample, a garage stab, a techno bleep, a sweet vocal, some phat drum sounds and make a tune that will (hopefully) appeal to all... Whatever your into... No rules! No restrictions!
Vlad: I have always had respect for dnb and old skool, but being involved in other types of dance music as mentioned above I practically missed it. But I can surely say that all the work in breakbeat we have done so far as a band and especially being such good mates, has helped me relive those missed times in pure inspiration. And furthermore I can say that Breakbeat has helped me to understand the whole of dance music as one big space where freedom to move and interact is all that counts.

Breakneck's current and debut release, '4(X)' & 'Spinoff' for London Breakz is in the shops now. Check out their website for the latest <http://www.breakneck.org.uk>



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Hello again, in the last issue of Lexicon we told you a little about our new company www.urbangroovez.co.uk and reviewed some of the great tracks available in our on-line shop. This new section has expanded in this issue and will continual to grow over the coming months. If you wish to write in if you have a good deep house night going we will do our best to give you a shout in our January 2003 edition. So until then have a great Xmas and New Year.

GAZZARA - SPIRIT OF SUMMER - REMIXES - IRMA
This ep features four great remixes, The 'Dave Warrin mix will please fans of Deep House. This wonderful dreamy remix with its 'Naked' vibe will fit in well into those early morning sets, deep and mesmorising. 'Dress' come with a much more dubbier affair, with pumping filters and bass. 'Jon Cutler' goes for the full on Jazz treatment with layers of strings, pianos, vibes and horns, & tucked away on the b side is my fave, the 'Belladonna' mix. Dreamy and Mesmorising as Dave Warrins mix, but with pumped up beats and jazz stab pianos and walking Bass allowing you to play this anytime.... It'll set any floor alight.

ROLAND CLARK presents URBAN SOUL - HAPPY - KING STREET
King Street have been responsible for some memorable tunes over the years. Every so often a track surfaces that touches you in a way the classic rare grooves of yesterday did. The A- side delivers a masterful mix from BLAZE, soulful vocal & Delivery entwined with all the trademarks of a BLAZE production, a groove of Jazzy rhodes and a live sounding b-line. The AA gives you a SHELTER vocal mix as well as the original by Urban Soul. The three mixes of 'Happy' should suit most people's taste and lovers of classy soul music, that harks back to the days of the Loft with full orchestral strings and live percussion.

WEST MAGNETICS - LOCK IT UP - OM RECORDINGS
This terrific track has been around for a couple of months now but in limited supply. This wonderful track delivers a stunning vocal masterpiece. To start with you get hit with a simple Piano stab that's been put through a filter and a wonderful FX, so every time it loops it touches the soul. Then take a beautiful vocal performance from Ursa Leedham with the hooky chorus line ' welcome to this feeling' add muted bongo's and percussion, a solid kick and warm bass that envelopes every one in hearing range and you get a classic groove that'll warm the heart. A wonderful release from a great label.

FRED EVERYTHING feat MISSY ELLIOTT - LICK SHOT REMIX - WHITE
This little boot has been around a couple of months now and has slowly been building up as more and more people get to hear this. I know it sounds a weird combination, Rap meets Deep House, but boy, does it work or does it work? With stepping beats, pulverizing bass and hooky stabs the dub alone will cause mayhem on the floor but when you add Missy's vocal, the track just goes off! A rude and raucous funky ass groove...get it while you can.

DR JOHN JULIUS KNIGHT - FIND A FRIEND PART 2 - SOULFURIC TRAX
Another gem from the consistent Soulfuric Records. 'Find a Friend' is a great blend of Disco and Jazz. On the A side the filtered disco loop, hats rides & kick drum all added to a warm walking bass line, get you into the groove, add subtle electric piano riffs & vocal edits and your hooked. The AA gives us an Audiowhores mix, who lay the jazz on a heavier vibe as well as beefing up the filtered loops & drums they also brings in a Brass Construction style horn section and fattens up the disco loops and bass for maximum dance floor effect. Bottom line, two wicked cuts of Soulfuric magic, that will grace any collection.

JAKE CHILDS -BACK TO BASICS - DEDICATED MUSIQUE
I don't really know much about this label or artist, but when there is a 'Johnny Fiasco' remix on offer, its obviously time to check it out. A delightful, sublime, Jazz inspired mix, slightly deeper than normal but still impressive. The mix encompasses haunting string stabs blended with subtle melodies and vocals, laid on a bed of trademark 'Fiasco' beats and humming bass. The track isn't instant but if left to play, you will get slowly hooked and when its over I guarantee you'll wish to repeat the experience. A classy remix for the Fiasco fans.

MR MAGIC - WORLD OF MAGIC - O ' BLEEK CITY
This 12" is one of the highest quality slabs of vinyl to grace my decks in a good while, all three tracks are magnificent. I especially enjoyed 'Diah-Nah' a jazz tinged deep house groove that's gonna be well caned on JFM, kinda like Blue Six on a comedown.....very mellow and relaxing but a million miles away from boring. 'Moment' was also great, although a completely different groove. Squelchy and extremely varied beats & dubby bass line, quite strange beats in fact, but wholly original sounding. Loads of other elements going on that you can't quite put your finger on, giving the whole thing a kinda twisted feeling. The A side 'World of Magic' is pretty addictive as well, and again there's so much variety in the tune that you just fall into it.
Steve Kinsey Jazz F.M

MICHELLE WEEKS - THE LIGHT 1*JAZZ N GROOVE /UBP* SOULFURIC
Major Shelter vibes on this new Michelle Weeks tune. UBP knock out a cool Jon Cutler styled workout of this stunning diva vocal, with jazzy guitar solos and soaring classic sounding strings. On the back Jazz N Groove head into a harder sound with filtered out keyboard lines & big Subliminal builds. The quality is definitely here on this tight two track. Those looking for well produced vocal hits, your prayers have been answered.

PETALPUSHER & KASKADE - JETLAG - NAKED
Two San Francisco house pioneers join forces for this latest in a long line of Naked classics. Petalpusher (Miguel Migs) and Kaskade once again working their studio magic to full effect! On the A-side, Migs stirs up his solid, uplifting house blend with assistance of Lisa Shaw on vocal duties with 'You Bring Me Up' not to mention a stunning dub interpretation to finish things off nicely. The B-Side we find Kaskade (Bluem, Om) capturing the beautiful harmonies & vocal musings of Joslyn on 'Brighter Days'. The record would not be complete, however, without the sheer funk artistry of Sweden's rising star, Quant. His 1st ever Naked remix assignment.

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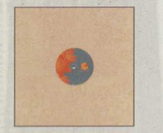
KUKU - GET ON - PIVOTAL
This new UK label surfaced a couple of months ago with Rebeat's critically acclaimed 'Organic Exploit EP' Muzik hailed him as the new St Germaine... heavy praise indeed. The label seems to be able to spot new talent and the second release from two guys hailing from Bournemouth only enforces this view. KuKu deliver a stunning slice of disco magic. The track has been getting some heavy support & on hearing it, you'll understand why. The track is built around a disco filtered bass & loop, a punching 4/4, vocal hook& a floor filling bass line. All of the elements needed to excite the crowd are here. Flip it over for a bongo lead dub mix, just as effective just as good. Hot tune.

MAW ELECTRONIC - TRANZ - MASTERS AT WORK
Masters At Work have earned the right to call themselves masters after giving us so many classy tunes over the last decade. This new release shows you why these guys are always right on the button. 'Tranz' is a superb update of the early rave classic 'Trans Euro Express'. Stunningly executed the Masters give us a rhythmic ride of Electro beats, subtle hooks that come and go and drop heavy bass will all ensure that this release gets the credits due... Awesome



RHYTHM PLATE - NEW JACK INFECTION - BLUEM
If like me you are already a fan of this wicked up and coming label from parent company Siesta, then you won't be surprised to hear that this latest offering is another kickin' groove. 'New Jack Infection' is a tribal house groove with stripped down jazz inspired hooks culminating in a bubbly funky groove that is simply so hooky it'll have your body rockin' in no time, infectious & seriously groovy. On the flip we find the very funky and progressive ' Ewok Disco'. This track is heavy on the bass with a filtered hook and muddy beats but seriously infectious.

AFRO MYSTIK - NATURAL - OM RECORDINGS
With a catalogue brimming with classy tunes this is always a label to watch out for. This latest release is no exception. 'Natural' is a fantastic driven bongo groove, fused with Dub sounds & Bass. The sweet vocal hook 'So Natural' floating over the top with extra snippets of percussion, subtle string stabs all add to the overall funky vibe. The track doesn't get stuck in the groove either. After a crowd pleasing breakdown the track comes back with a cacophony of sounds that make the hairs stand up on the back of your neck and when it ends, your left wanting more. A dance floor killa that's sure to build into a sure fire hit.

H FOUNDATION - HEAR DIS SOUND HIPP-E & HALO REMIX - SIESTA
Another quality Siesta release, Hipp-e & Halo, originators of the current West Coast sound, put their masterful touch to the Hear Dis Sound classic. The track is a slow burner. As you would expect from these two, this is a driving ride of massive rasta man vocals, rinsed through the delay, with some sick conga loops and a deep filtered bassline, add some swirling intense strings which come and go, vocal hooks echoing in and out of the groove and you get a progressive deep monster. On the flip you have another mix, much more in your face, with a far heavier mix down, stripped beats & bass for the dance floor. Awesome.

INDART, CHUS & CEBALLOS - IBERICAN VIBES EP - DOUBLEDOWN
Two superb Progressive Tribal House Grooves. Both tracks borrow bits of each mix but still manage to give us two varied cuts. These tracks are both made for the dance floor, with their beats and bass intro, followed up with steel drum edits, funky piano melody hooks and stabs, all leading to a breakdown which introduces deep faint strings and echoing vocals before kickin' back off, to the delight of the crowd. Simple, but very effective. Doubledown hit the mark again.

SEN - SEI & DAVE COLEMAN - GERONIMO - BIG CHIEF
Big Chief records in their short history have given us some wonderful Tribal Grooves and this 10th release is no exception. Three mixes and a beatz dub exploring the Tribal Progressive sound. All of the tracks are built using a variety of steel drums, bongos and percussion for the Rhythm track, pulverizing Bass and dub and vocal edits creating the atmospherics all culminating in quality dance floor rockers. So both mixes, whether it's the main mix by the San Francisco Wonder Twins or the RED MOON mixes by Tony Thomas and DJ Hal with its big beats and the gated vocal that gets the crowd every time. I'm sure you'll agree, another hit.

MIGUEL MIGS - COLOURFUL YOU album - NAKED MUSIC
This label has blown up world wide over the last couple of years. With over twenty stunning 12"s and a series of impressive albums behind them, you now can guarantee the quality of every release. At last we finally get an album from the man himself Miguel Migs. Since his debut and Naked Music's debut release, the brilliant ' Petal Pusher's ' "Breaking It Down" both Artist and Label have gone from strength to strength. This album is another notch for the talented Jay Denes as it expresses exactly the philosophy of his label Naked Music, quality house music with extremely classy production. Whether it is a vocal or instrumental track, you can be assured of a memorable experience. I can't pick out a fave as they are all excellent, eight glorious tunes, a must for any fan of Mr Migs or Naked Music.

S.U.M.O - WORKOUT album- SEASONS
This album contains 8 serious Jazz inspired House grooves from Stockholm's very own 'Swedish Underfed Music Operators' and every track is class. The album explores all the genres of Jazz including Latin, Samba and Fusion to devastating effect. The tracks never get noodly and always maintain enough power to keep a dancefloor rockin'. The quality of the production is exceptional and you just know these guys are gonna build a huge rep over the coming years. My fave track is 'Santiago Boys' the track starts of with some rockin Steel Drums a solid 4/4 kick, building to stabbed Piano chords & warm bass, & already your hooked. Add some jazz scat vocal & harmonies and the groove grabs you even more. The track drives to a superb breakdown and kicks back in with a full on musical section encompassing Horn & String sections but never losing its powerful edge, making this a hot tune and album.

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Phil's Ramblings

What a good couple of month's its been for tunes. As always there seem to be a lot of wicked bits in the run up to Xmas and as always with so many its sometimes hard to know which ones to buy and which ones to leave. I hope the reviews help you make a decision, but due to lack of room there were a number of other tunes which deserved a mention, so here goes...

On the deeper side the tracks definitely in need of checking out include...the wonderful double pack from **JEPHTE GUILLAUME AL DI YO** on **SPIRITUAL LIFE**. Taken from the forthcoming 'Voyage Of Dreams' album, this wonderful Afro House vocal has been given some dance floor mixes by Tet Kale. Also one to listen out for are the wonderful remixes of last summers vocal house classic **FRANCOIS K's "AWAKENING"** on **WAVE**. The German super duo Needs add their Brazilian inspired touch with Calypso rhythms and lush keyboard sounds, with the vocal talents of Barbara Mendes floating over the top, not to be missed.

SANCSOUL RECORDS offer up a gem of a release, the **SANCSOUL SESSIONS** by **RON TRENT & 95 NORTH**. Ron turns the original Gospel version into an epic journey of live percussion and emotive synth sounds. On the flip 95 North go for a cut and paste cut of beats bass and a funky Spanish guitar line, and some Latino piano tinkles. A label I always check out is Bombay. They rarely let you down with their deep luscious vibes. Their new release **'SECOND WIND'** is by **'RISE ASHEN'** an up and coming Canadian producer called Rise Ashen. His debut for Bombay drops a lush Female vocal track with an impressive performance from 'Urusula Rucker'. On the flip a Smoked out Miguel Graca Rasta House that's firin'.

If your looking for something that you are gonna be able to play for a long time then check out **'KING KOOBA's' 'IF I COULD'** on **OM** Records. Taken from the forthcoming King Kooba album, this wonderful female vocal has been given a wide range of reworks from downtempo to Deep House. Featured mixes from Oakenfull, Kasakade, Ski , Afro Mystik, Palmskin, Micheal Kabasa, a tight package here, with something for everyone. **SOUL SHINE** Records have also been putting out some real vocal gems lately. The new **ANDRICKA HALL & DEEP SWING** release **'INSIDE MY LIFE & SHELTER'** are no exception. Two classic sounding vocals from DeepSwing and Andricka Hall with Louis Benedeth on the mixes. In an old school vibe, 'Stay Inside My Life' rocks Maw styled drums with a funky guitar line and piano lines. The flip is a dedication to The Shelter, in a Dennis F style with soaring strings and moody Rhodes, wonderful.

A few tracks of a more up tempo nature that also caught my ear this last few weeks include the wicked new release on **JAMAYKA** Records **'INSTINCT'** by **LOUIS BOTELLA**, a beautifully crafted piece of House music. The track relies on synth strings and subtle melody hooks to en-capture you and it easily achieves this. Out of the **POUND BOYS** camp we have the slammin **AUDIOWHORES MIDNIGHT MOOD** on **LOOK AT YOU** Records. The second track on the B side is the one hurting me, a deep disco groove in an electro groove with sneaky 'Music' vocal doing the damage. **DJ ROMAIN** resurfaces with the **LATE NIGHT HOUSE SESSIONS VOL 1** release on his new label **NU FAZE**, and what a peach of a tune. Paying homage to the sound of classic Disco and House of NY, this has a special guest appearance from Lord G with a spoken word vocal. Guaranteed to rock any floor.

Another new label to surface was **CLOVER** Records. Their first release is a disco track by **MONKEY BARS** called **FOWL PLAY** which includes a serious reworking from West Coast favourites Smitty & Davenport. They rework this big band track into a stomping disco ride of tight filter drop outs and jazzy piano tinkles. On a more tribal note check out two terrific new release on **NITE GROOVES** Records. **IVAN IACOBUCCI's** stompin **PRIA NEGRA** is a very strong Afro House outing with all live instrumentation. A flute solo makes up the hook, with a chanting African bit floating around in the back. Brutally effective,and a floor filler every play. The second offering from **NITE GROOVES** is the trancy **RALPHI ROSARIO & LINDA CLIFFORD's STRINGS OF LIFE Part 2** The vocalist from Akabu's 'Ride The Storm' Linda Clifford joins forces with House veteran Ralphi Rosario for a massive Junior Vasquez styled workout. Starting with tough tribal percussion this builds into ship horn stabs and long drum rolls, with Linda wailing over the top. An Anthem orientated tune that's sure to blow up.

All that's left to say is have a great Xmas, eat plenty,drink plenty, dance plenty and plenty of anything else that takes your fancy. See ya in the 2003... Phil

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inspiritmusic

When two friends, Bob Haynes and Max Beard needed to house their escalating home studio and schooled in music and business Inspirit Music was born. Premises were hunted High Wycombe, their home town, and as fate would have it the local record shop had just ceased trading. Sure enough before long wax was sold to customers and profits covered the rent for the studio on the floor above.

As the shop began to establish itself their online empire began to unfold and is now trading worldwide. <http://www.inspiritmusic.com> is the link. Bob and Max became tired of solely producing for other people and needing to take control of their artistic directions they decided to roll out their own imprint. Enter the record label - Inspirit Music.

The main objective with Inspirit Music is to make deep house of the finest quality, the label has also tested some 2-step grooves for good measure too. First release 'Some Day' by The Beard comfortably found favour with a host of influential players such as Laurent Garnier, Rui Da Silva and Jori Hulkonnen. Bob Haynes better known as Bobtrax went in for the 2-step remix along with Phuturistix (aka Madslinky and Zed Bias). Gilles Peterson and Patrick Forge then took it to the radio listeners and the tracks appeared on a number of compilations.

After licensing a track to San Francisco's Om Records for one of their successful compilation series' Inspirit hooked up with Andy Caldwell. In 1994 Andy finished his first release with label mate Gabriel Rene who went on to form a strong unison with San Fran based Soulstice, who have not so long ago released their debut album 'Illusion'. 'InSoul Sessions' is the new mix by Andy Caldwell to be released on Inspirit Music, here's a little bit about each of the guests appearing on it.

Kaskade

Chicago rooted and now San Francisco based deep house producer Kaskade's (real name Ryan Raddon) passion with house music evolved in his home town, conveniently also serving itself as the birthplace of house music. His reputation for producing soulful grooves is now worldwide thanks to a string of hits on Naked Music, Om Records and After Hours. He has spun vinyl alongside the best of them and requests for gigs have sent him packing his record box and jetting off to the far flung corners of the globe.

It's also been known for Ryan to venture into 2-step and down tempo territory. Kaskade also encompass of other talented musicians who must be mentioned: Finn Bjarnson, Yoni Gileadi, Graig Poole and vocalist Josyln Petty. A forthcoming album from them is due on Om shortly. Debuting on Inspirit Music with the reworking of Amma's 'On My Own', it's the remix of Amma's 'Heartbeat' on InSoul Session that you'll want to peep next.

The Beard

The Beard is Inspirit Music's in-house engineer and flagship deejay. Drawing influences from Naked Music, Guidance and Om Records The Beard's real fascination lies with musical, deep house. Talented vocalists Amma and Soul Sista further enhance The Beard's outstanding production and signature soulful laid-back grooves. Premier release 'Someday' was a deep vocal house number bristling with Summer vibes. Phuturistix (aka Zed Bias and Injekta) provided an alternative version to go with The Beard's '5 O'Clock Shadow'.

The collaboration with Soul Sista on 'Only You' was the next offering. With worldwide support, and an appearance on the 'Fabric 03' compilation as mixed by Jon Marsh, the track rightfully received it dues. A-listed on the majority of South Africa's radio stations and license requests for three more major compilations have helped further more. Follow up collaborations have resulted in 'Musication' & 'The One', he has remixed material by fellow label producers Andy Caldwell and Kaskade too. The Beard is open for experimentation when it comes to more relaxing harmonies and remixes are on the agenda for progressive house labels Igloo Recordings and Urban Torque.

Soul Sista

Descending from South Africa 23 year old singer/songwriter Soul Sista refers to a number of genres that have helped shape her musical outlook including deep house, hip hop and kwaito. With humble beginnings in South African pop group 'Crowded Crew' Soul Sista went on to perform live PA's at Sublime, in Johannesburg, alongside international jocks like Richard Hardcastle, Stuart Patterson, Alex Moran and label nights including Guidance.

Soul Sista and Inspirit first linked at a Naked Music Party in London and ever since the vocalist has been clocking up some time in the Inspirit studio with both Bobtrax and The Beard assisting with tracks. To date Soul Sista has appeared on The Beard presents .. 'Only You', the track has received huge press and radio support throughout the UK and is currently finding favour with US deejays such as Miguel Migs and Andy Caldwell. Soul Sista will be appearing and performing live vocals at a variety of Inspirit events throughout the UK.

Soul Khula

Soul Khula are a duo comprising of enterprising and recognized electro-soul-jazz-heads Craig Massiv and Troye Lilley. As members of the ever-evolving Jazzworx axis, their output has topped local radio charts, ruled native dancefloors and earned two celebrated South African Music Award nominations (Best Dance Album 2001 and Best Group 2002). But more important than the props from high places, their jazz-wize rhythms have reconstituted assumptions about how South African dance music should sound, irretrievably altering its terrain...

Collaborating with some musical geniuses on long players such as 'Sugartraz presents...' and 'The Coming Storm' (both from Jazzworx) the duo have also released an album under the alias of Aftertouch.

The subsequent linking up with Inspirit Music means that resident mix maestro's Andy Caldwell and The Beard will be on hand for remix duties, helping to bring the sound of Soul Khula, further into the international picture. With the release of the 'Musication EP' - the first of three for the label featuring SA's leading jazz guitarist Louis Mhlanga and Inspirit's own Soul Sista on vox - Soul Khula are capping the promise they've exhibited over the past few years and are taking the sounds of South Africa outside of its borders and onto the world's strobe lit floors.

Andy Caldwell

Bay area citizen Andy Caldwell's obsession with music began in childhood when he first picked up the trumpet and tinkled the keys of a piano. Realising the power of the instruments he behold it was now just a matter of focusing on his true direction with the music scene. The underground rave scene only helped to strengthen his love for music more and fuel his desire to make emotive music. By the age of eighteen Andy was mixing vinyl and the studio induction followed a short time after.

In 1994 through Brain Candy Enterprise his breakbeat charged 'Superfunkidiculous' was released. Used in pro skate videos and more recently the television show 'Boston Public' the tune's popularity in club land was also immense. His first break led to collaboration with Gabriel Rene as a keyboard player and integral member of the acclaimed San Fran band Soulstice, which later earned a Dream Works recording contract. Andy has achieved a steady stream of releases on Om including the Mushroom Jazz series, Om Lounge and Sounds of Om.

His early familiarity with classic instruments and his practice of unconformist underground electronic music makes for a terrific combination. To the present day 28 year old Andy continues to build his ever growing discography. Ever striving to turn out songs that strike an emotional as well as inspirational chord within the listener and collaborate with more vocalists that share a similar outlook is Andy's game plan.

Amma

Very much at the heart of Inspirit Music lies the thoughtful song writing and vocal talents of Amma. Since an early age Amma has made her mark on the UK music scene which began with her solo releases like 'Crazy on You' on R&B label Easy Jam Records. The talented singer has been working with Inspirit Music for over a year now and is fast emerging as one of the UK's most electrifying female vocalists. Amma's just as comfortable expressing with different styles of music such as R&B, soul, deep house and down tempo. Track masters Phuturistix, Quintessence, Andy Caldwell and Landslide have all found it a pleasure working with this young artist.

Amma graces tracks such as 'Someday', 'On My Own', 'Was It Real?' and 'Heartbeat' on the 'In Soul Sessions' compilation. There's more planned forthcoming releases on the label and work on her debut album has already been commenced. Hungry to do the PA circuit now Amma has been appearing at the recent Inspirit Music nationwide launch party tour alongside Andy Caldwell and Marques Wyatt.

You can take a look at a brand new game that has been designed to coincide with the launch of the CD. Caricatures of the different artists featured on the CD project go head to head, if you want to know more you'll have to check it out on www.inspiritmusic.com & www.andycaldwell.com

ADDICT 'UNIFORM 4 THE STREET'

Addict Clothing is regarded by many as one of the UK's most innovative, cutting edge, committed and real brands within the streetwear industry. Established in Southampton in 1995 the brand has grown to the point were it now commands national and international recognition from the fashion, music and street sport worlds.

First and foremost it's important to remember that this is a 'family company' being conceived, run and operated by a small group of close friends who share the same interest and strive for the same goals. Many of the staff at Addict are indeed skaters, DJ's, MC's, designers and graffiti writers, so the the element of 'realness' and their commitment to sevicing their intended target market is unmatched within their fields of expertise. Now on an international scale one of the core threads of the company is their commitment to supporting the UK hip hop, drum n bass and skate scenes.

Jon AKA MC Wrec, head of all artist sponsorship at Addict, puts together national and international drum n bass and hip hop tours to co promote both the label and the sponsored artists. Working closely with hip hop don's Rodney P, Skitz, First Rate, Mr Thing and Phi Life Cypher, Addict now sponsor drum n bass stars Danny Wheeler (Infrared Recs), Drive By crew (Bristol), Event Horizon (Leeds) not to mention flowing product to Goldie, Ray Keith, Fabio, Simon Bassline, DJ Die, Bryan Gee and DJ Patife. We have also just secured a sponsorship deal with Hospital Records and London Electricity to support their monthly club night @ Herbal and their fourthcoming world tour.

The main reason why so many artists and camps want to be associated with the Addict brand is down to the fact that we really understand their relevent markets, plus the fact that the garments are designed and maufactured to the highest quality. There's no corporate funding, large backer or parent entity, this is a small company with big projects in motion and even bigger plans for the future. Look out for the superb new winter men and womens ranges in the shops now and be watching for the stylish and durable recordpak, which has now become the choice recordbag for many of the prolific DJ's on the circuit. Finally keep your eyes peeled for the exclusive limited edition camo G Shock watch and guest artists t shirts including Rodney P, Daddy Skitz, DJ First Rate and MC Wrec.

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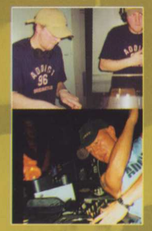

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